

The
THOREAU SOCIETY
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DIFFERENT DRUMMERS by Walter Harding
(Read at the 1984 annual meeting).

"Why should we be in such desperate haste to succeed, and in such desperate enterprises? If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."--WALDEN.

This morning I would like to speak of some different drummers. I believe firmly that we have had a larger concentration of different drummers in our society and at our annual meetings than anywhere else in the world. And we've had some lulus, Henry bless them. I suspect I've attended more meetings of our society than anyone else, having been at 40 of the 43, and I can remember some choice ones.

Let me start with Roger Payne. What a delightful soul he was. A graduate of Oxford University, he came to this country about 1910 and happened across a copy of WALDEN. It was a book that changed his life. He wrote a book with the wonderful title of WHY WORK? and supported himself the remainder of his long life by peddling copies of it. He spent most of his spare time--and he had a lot of it--reading in the New York Public Library at 42nd Street. Each year he hitch-hiked up here to Concord for the annual meetings. As soon as he arrived in town, he announced his presence to the local police and obtained their permission to sleep on the porch of the old high school. He informed me once that he thought so much of the Thoreau Society that he was willing to let his entire estate. We learned that a society could not inherit unless it were incorporated and so that is why we now have "Inc." after our society's name. When Roger, sadly, was picked off by a New York taxi a few years later, his lawyer shipped me Roger's estate--it consisted of 24 copies of WHY WORK?

Rev. Roland D. Sawyer was a clergyman and state legislator from Ware, Mass., known widely as the "barefoot legislator" because he had an aversion to wearing shoes. In 1917 he published a little pamphlet about Thoreau to commemorate the centennial of Thoreau's birth--a charming little booklet that re-

The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an informal gathering of students and admirers of Henry David Thoreau. Frederick Wagner, president; Marian Wheeler, vice-president; Mary Anderson, treasurer; and Walter Harding, secretary. address communications to the secretary at State University College, Geneseo, N.Y. 14454. Dues, \$10 a year; Friend, \$15; Family, \$25; and Life membership, \$100. Dues should be sent to the Thoreau Society, 156 Belknap St., Concord, Mass. 01742. The society also sponsors the Thoreau Lyceum at that address.

mained in print for many years. At his summer place in New Hampshire he named his guest house for Thoreau. When I was trying to organize the Thoreau Society in 1941, he was among the few who offered help. He had long wanted to organize an annual pilgrimage to Walden Pond on Thoreau's birthday. We joined forces, organized a pilgrimage on July 12, 1941. And there the Thoreau Society was born.

Joseph Ishill was born in Roumania just before the turn of the century. By chance he happened upon a translation of a portion of Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience" in a Bucharest newspaper and decided to emigrate to the United States to live in a country where one could speak as freely as Thoreau did. A skilled typesetter, he obtained work in New York City and lived for a time in the utopian community in Stelton, N.J. Eventually he settled in Berkeley Heights, N.J., commuting daily to New York City but devoting his weekends to printing beautiful little booklets of his favorite literature on a tiny press in his basement. These Oriole Press pamphlets are now collectors' items. He printed for such people as George Bernard Shaw and Havelock Ellis little pieces they could not get published elsewhere. He never sold his books but gave them to those he thought would enjoy them. One of his choicest pieces was Mabel Loomis Todd's recollections of the Thoreau family which he printed for us as Thoreau Society Booklet #13. Although he long dreamed of visiting Concord and Walden Pond, he was in his seventies before he felt he could afford the trip, attending one of our annual meetings. What joy was on his face when he got here!

Ira Hoover was the model of a small town Pennsylvania boy until at the age of eighteen as a Sunday school teacher he was sent to the big city to attend a church convention. In his YMCA room he found not a Gideon Bible but a copy of Tom Paine and overnight was deconverted. He resigned from his church and fled to Philadelphia where he got a job as a postman. He joined the Socialist Party and, like Roland Sawyer, issued a little booklet to commemorate the centennial of Thoreau's birth. In 1941, in delivering a piece of mail to Steve Thomas, he noticed the return address of the Thoreau

Society in the corner and immediately asked Steve how he could join. From then on he attended our meetings regularly. In later years when care of two elderly maiden sisters kept him completely tied down, he said he could survive so long as he could get away one week-end a year for the annual meeting. After the death of his sisters he retired to the little Utopian community in Arden, Delaware, and at his death bequeathed his residual estate to the Thoreau Society, the income from which has enabled the society to help purchase wild lands in the Concord area in memory of Ira's love of the Concord area.

Edward Holton James, nephew of Henry and William James and father-in-law of the sculptor Alexander Calder, was a lifelong resident of Concord. He was never a very active member of the Thoreau Society, though he was deeply in sympathy with Thoreau's ideas. Having inherited considerable property, he refused to invest in any company that did not treat its laborers fairly and did not produce a worthwhile, dependable product. Trained as a lawyer, he devoted his practice to civil liberties causes. In Berlin in 1914, he tried to start a revolution against the Kaiser but ended up spending all of World War I in a German jail. In the 1920's he went to India to aid Gandhi and joined him there in jail. These were not his only jailings. Wherever there was a fight for freedom, Ned James was there. And whenever he was jailed, he always took a copy of Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience" with him.

One of the most memorable of our different drummers was Rella Ritchell, a Russian emigrant who lived in Brooklyn but spent her summers in Concord. I first remember her trying to push her way into a newspaper photograph of the society officers (of which she was not one) at our first meeting. She wrote some of the most atrocious poetry ever written. She would glowingly autograph copies of her book of poetry to almost anyone, then follow it up a week later with a bill for the book. Rarely a meeting went by without her getting up and denouncing someone or something. Regularly she ate the society's annual luncheon and then refused to pay for it because it was not vegetarian. When once I suggested we have an occasional guest volunteer editor for an issue of our bulletin, she was the only one who volunteered and sent in a mass of disorganized, undigested fact and fiction, enough to fill a whole series of bulletins. I managed eventually to organize, correct and condense it down to part of one bulletin and I don't think she ever realized the difference, for she basked in its glory for months. But despite all her loudness and pushiness, Rella had an overflowing love of her Saint Henry and acted as a Thoreau Gideonite all her life.

Another one of our different drummers was Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana who attended every meeting from our first one in 1941 till his death ten or so years later. He was the grandson of both Longfellow the poet and Dana the novelist and at our first meeting gave us a lively account of Longfellow's reactions to Henry as a student in his classes at Harvard. Dana received national attention when he was fired from the Columbia University faculty as a pacifist in World War I by Nicholas Murray Butler. And throughout his lifetime he was at the forefront in defending civil liberties. I recall him at one of the early meetings using the cairn at Walden as a soapbox to orate on some immediate concern.

At our second annual meeting, in 1942, we worked on by-laws for the society, when one individual--fortunately I've forgotten who--stood up and proposed as a by-law that "no cranks or radicals be admitted into the society." To my delight Harry Dana got the motion laughed off the floor when he pointed out that under those standards Henry Thoreau himself would have been unable to join his own society. It seems to me that we as a society have been getting pretty sedate of late. I would like to suggest a new by-law that rather than keeping "cranks and radicals" out of the society, encourages them to join. I know at times they might give us some rough going, but I know I would feel more at home--and I think Henry Thoreau would too.

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We are grateful to the following for information sent in for this bulletin: T. Alther, J.Aton, W.Bly, J.Dawson, M.Detterline, J.Eggert, M.Ferguson, P.Galvin, J.Garate, M.Giuseppe, D.Hannan, F.Johnson, K.Kasegawa, G.Lowder, S.Mayers, D.McWilliams, J.Myerson, M.Powell, E.Schofield, H.Schon, E.Shaw, A.Small, R.Thompson, L.Walker, and J.Zuit-hoff. Please keep your secretary informed of items he has missed and new ones as they appear.

THE 1984 ANNUAL MEETING . . .

The 1984 annual meeting of the Thoreau Society was held in the First Parish Church in Concord, Massachusetts, on Saturday, July 14. The previous evening Prof. Joel Myerson of the University of S.C. spoke on "Thoreau as Transcendentalist. The Saturday meeting began with a coffee hour at 9 a.m. The business meeting, conducted by President Ann Zwinger, opened at 10 a.m. The 1983 minutes were accepted as published in the Summer, 1983, bulletin, with the correction of substituting the name of Marian Wheeler for that of Roland Robbins in reading the report of the Wild Memorial Committee. The treasurer's report was read by Mary Anderson and accepted. Mrs. Anderson then moved the adoption of a new policy of graduated dues: Individual membership, \$10 (as it now is); Friend

of the Society, \$15; Family membership, \$25; Life membership, \$100. The motion was passed.

Linda Henning, for the nominating committee, offered the following slate of officers: Frederick Wagner, president; Marian Wheeler, vice-president; Walter Harding, secretary; and Mary Anderson, treasurer--all for terms of one year. For the board of directors for three years: John H. Clymer, Malcolm Ferguson, Persis Green, Sylvia Klinck, Mary McClintock, Michael Meyer, and Linda Beau-lieu. This slate of officers was elected.

Anne McGrath gave a report on the year's activities at the Thoreau Lyceum and reminded us that the Lyceum not only sells new and used books about and by Thoreau, but that it is always interested in buying used copies to re-sell.

Marcia Moss gave the following report of the Archives Committee. "In keeping with the Archives Committee's announced intention to seek out and acquire for the Thoreau Society Archives materials associated with Thoreau, we are most grateful to Thomas Blanding who during his own research and writing has been instrumental during the past year in acquiring three such collections for the Archives as loans or gifts.

"Two collections center around Daniel Ricketson, Thoreau's New Bedford friend. These collections are on deposit loan, which is to say, ownership of the materials remains with the lenders but the collections have been placed in our archives for research and exhibit for an extended and indefinite period.

Nicolas Gentile and his daughter Winifred Liakos have lent their collection consisting of almost 300 letters and documents by, to, or about Daniel Ricketson and his family. Correspondents include Sophia Thoreau, Lydia Maria Child, Edward Emerson, Alexander Japp, F.B. Sanborn, Theo Brown, William Howitt, and Samuel Hoar.

"Ray Parmenter, a Thoreau Society member, has lent his Ricketson collection consisting of over 200 manuscripts and 200 printed items and photographs. Materials include two Ricketson diaries, a scrapbook, Ricketson family documents and photographs, manuscript poems by Ricketson, numerous articles by Ricketson, books by Ricketson and books from his library, some forty letters from Ricketson to Thoreau (many unpublished), and numerous letters by or to Sophia Thoreau, Emerson, Alcott, Channing, William Howitt, George William Curtis, Longfellow and Helen Keller.

"We are extremely grateful to Mr. Parmenter, Mr. Gentile, and Mrs. Liakos for the loan of this material which will prove a boon to Thoreau studies. Already several scholars are drawing on the information and texts: Thomas Blanding for The Thoreau Family Circle (his collection of Thoreau family & related correspondence), Walter Harding for a new edition of the Thoreau Correspondence, and Don Mortland of Eastern Kentucky University for the first biography of Daniel Ricketson. Many of these

manuscripts and other items may be seen at the Thoreau Lyceum today in an exhibit entitled "Daniel Ricketson and His Friends," arranged by Thomas Blanding and Marilyn Blaisdell. We also wish to thank the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, the Concord Free Public Library, the Concord Antiquarian Museum, and Malcolm Ferguson for lending items for the exhibit.

"The third collection is a generous gift to the Thoreau Society (through the Thoreau Lyceum at the time of merger) of the Edmund Sewall, Jr. Family Papers. This important collection has been donated by Theodore Sewall Abbot and Quincy Sewall Abbot, grandson and great-grandson of Edmund Sewall, Thoreau's "gentle boy" and the brother of Ellen Sewall, the young woman to whom Thoreau proposed. The Sewall collection consists of a diary kept by Edmund as a boy visiting the Thoreaus at Concord, transcripts of other diaries, family photographs, and about 160 manuscript letters. Among the most interesting letters are some fifteen by young Edmund, including description of the Thoreau brothers' Concord Academy and walks and talks with Henry and John Thoreau. Many of the letters are by Edmund's mother Caroline Ward Sewall and her sister Prudence Ward, whose friendships with the Thoreaus began before Henry's birth and continued for half a century. Prudence boarded with the Thoreaus at Concord for a decade. Many interesting episodes are recounted in these letters, including the death of David Thoreau, the uncle for whom Henry was named, Aunt Maria Thoreau's romance with her widowed brother-in-law Caleb Billings, and Henry Thoreau's own romance with Ellen Sewall. The correspondence is being edited by Thomas Blanding in The Thoreau Family Circle. Together with the 300 Ward Family letters given to the Thoreau Lyceum by Miss Jane Dunham and Mrs. William Priestley in 1980, a gift arranged by Thomas Blanding and Anne McGrath, these Sewall-Ward letters form a new and highly significant resource for Thoreau Studies. We are extremely grateful to Theodore and Quincy Abbot for this great gift."

Thomas Blanding introduced a motion that the Thoreau Society express its deep gratitude to Theodore Sewall Abbot and Quincy Sewall Abbot for their gift to the Society of the Edmund Sewall, Jr. Family Papers; and to Ray Parmenter, Nicholas Gentile, and Winifred Liakos for the deposit loan of their Daniel Ricketson Collections. It was voted by acclamation that thanks to these donors and lenders be duly entered into the record of the meeting.

Frederick Wagner introduced the following resolution which was accepted unanimously: "The Thoreau Society expresses its profound appreciation to Roland Wells Robbins for his generosity in aiding its efforts to secure new life members by designing as a gift for them a plaque worthy of their pledge. During the past year Roland has created twenty-three such plaques, each

bearing a line drawing of Thoreau sitting in the doorway of his cabin as well as a piece of brick and plaster from the cabin, artifacts which Roland collected after discovering its site.

"A renowned professional archeologist who has rendered lively reports of his ventures in such works as Discovery at Walden and Hidden America, Roland has devoted much of his life to advancing the goals and embodying the spirit of the Thoreau Society, of which he is, appropriately, a life member. We remember fondly his conducting the post-luncheon quizzes at the annual meetings, sessions which tantalized our minds, quickened our digestions, and refreshed our spirits no matter how hot or humid the heat of a July afternoon.

"By this resolution in Roland's honor the Thoreau Society voices its affection and gratitude as far as words will go, although in Roland's case they do not go nearly far enough."

The possibility was announced of a special tour of sites connected with Thoreau's years on the Harvard College campus and a special exhibit of Thoreau manuscripts in the Houghton and Pusey Libraries at the 1985 annual meeting. Members interested in attending such an event then are urged to express an interest now to our vice president in charge of programs, Marian Wheeler, 86 Hayward Court, Concord, Mass. 01742.

Special recognition was given to Anton Kamp who last year presented to the society his painting of Thoreau at Walden that is now hanging in the Thoreau Lyceum, and to Tony Foster, a British water-colorist who is now in this country making water colors of Thoreau's journeys for an exhibition at the Museum of British Art at Yale University next spring.

Ann Zwinger presented her presidential address on "Thoreau, the Quintessential Wanderer" and Walter Harding spoke on "Different Drummers."

After the luncheon, Albert Bussewitz conducted the usual Thoreau Quiz. At 2 o'clock, some took a special bus to the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln to see the special exhibit on Thoreau's influence on artists and to attend a special performance there by Christopher Childs of his Thoreau play "Clear Sky, Pure Light"; others took an historical tour of Concord center led by Thomas Blanding, watched a slide lecture by Mary Walker on "Men and Plants on Mt. Washington: a Botanical History," or talked with Gilbert Byron of Maryland, author of many poems and essays about Thoreau. At 4, Marcia Moss conducted her annual tour of the Thoreau treasures in the Concord Free Public Library. The usual sherry party, autographing party, and an especially delicious box supper were held at the Lyceum. The society is greatly indebted to the Concord ladies who prepared the box supper, to those who prepared the coffee hour in the morning, and to Lillian Files for preparing the

beautiful bouquet of wild flowers for the meeting hall. At the evening session, Paul Williams presented a slide lecture on "The Maker But Patented a Leaf" and retiring president Ann Zwinger presented the incoming president, Frederick Wagner, with the society gavel.

Several other meetings were held adjacent to the annual meeting. The DeCordova Museum on July 12th presented a performance of John Cage's Thoreau music "Empty Words" with the composer performing and on that same day the Walden Pond State Reservation conducted a "Sunrise Walk" to Waldend Pond to celebrate Thoreau's birthday. It was led by Brooke James and about fifty people attended. On Sunday morning July 15, Rev. Dana McLean Greeley preached a sermon on "Thoreau and Institutions" at the First Parish Church, and Mary Walker led a botanical expedition to the top of Mount Washington. On July 18, the DeCordova Museum sponsored a lecture by Walter Harding entitled "In Search of Henry Thoreau."

Further details of the annual meeting may be found in the LOWELL SUN for July 16 and the CONCORD JOURNAL for July 19.

SOME MYSTERIES AT WALDEN POND by WH

Most Thoreauvians know where to locate the site of Thoreau's cabin at Walden Pond--thanks to Roland Robbins' excavations. A few know where Thoreau's beanfield was, the site of the railroad picnic park, and where Emerson once intended to have built his own cabin at the pond. Brister's Spring is still easily located as the source of the brook feeding Fairyland Pond. But which, if any, of the many holes at the top of Brister's Hill, to the east of Route 126, is the site of Brister's house? In WALDEN Thoreau speaks of finding Cato Ingraham's cabin cellar hole "east of my beanfield." Is it still remaining? And is the cellar hole of Zilpha, the colored woman, "by the very corner of my field," the cellar hole a hundred feet or so southwest of the intersection of Routes 2 and 126? Where was Breed, the drunkard's hut which Thoreau speaks of being nearer to town than Brister's house? It was burned in the mid-1830's according to WALDEN. Where did Nutting and LeGrosse live? Thoreau found their well, lilac bushes, and wall "in the open field . . . an the left." Hugh Whelan purchased Thoreau's cabin in 1847 and moved it to a cellar hole he had dug, but when the cabin fell down into the hole, he abandoned it. Is his cellar hole the excavation still visible just southwest of the intersection of Route 126 and the old wood road to Thoreau's cabin site, about a hundred yards south of Route 2? Tommy Wyman once had a pottery "where the road [Route 126] approaches nearest to the pond," according to WALDEN. I have heard reports of pottery shards being found on the site as recently as

1945, but have never been able to find any myself. Has anyone found any there recently or has the regrading of the area in recent years buried them all? In the 1860's a disciple of Thoreau by the name of Hotham built a hut "nearer to the pond than Thoreau's cabin. Is that the slight hole almost at the water's edge at the head of Thoreau's Cove? And where was the home of Hugh Quoil, the soldier at Waterloo, who died the first winter Thoreau was at Walden? If you know the answers to any of these questions or know of any other unusual sites at Walden Pond, your secretary would like to know of them, for he is thinking of compiling a map of historic sites at the pond.

Two other points he can point out might interest you. Did you know there is still at least one of the pines planted by Thoreau on Emerson's property at the pond still standing though no longer living? If you go to the southwestern corner of the pond and look back at Thoreau's Cove, you can see its dead branches towering above the others. And did you know there was once a race track at Walden Pond? It was a bicycle track, a part of the picnic park the railroad sponsored at the pond in the latter years of the 19th century. And, surprisingly its site can still be easily found. Go back into the woods a few hundred feet west of the railroad track just north of where the track comes closest to the pond and there you will still find the large oval track with a starting alley tangent to it. The ground was so packed down that no trees yet grow in it and with a scrape of your foot you can still turn up the cinders that once covered it.

SOME EARLY NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ON THOREAU

Although it was once thought that Thoreau won little recognition in his lifetime, forgotten comments on him in the newspapers of his time keep turning up. Here are three newly discovered ones:

From the Athenaeum for May 27, 1854, just a few weeks before Walden was published. The Athenaeum was an English journal.

"Mr. Emerson's work on England is still in promise. . . . Mr. Emerson's silence is to be compensated by the early utterance of one of his disciples, Mr. H.D. Thoreau, in a book to be called 'Walden; or Life in the Woods.'--"Mr. Thoreau," says an American paper, "is a graduate of Harvard College, and, we believe, was qualified for the ministry in the Cambridge Divinity School. This vocation, however, he rejected for the more remunerative occupation of a manufacturer of wooden pencils. He was thus engaged for several years in the neighborhood of the Concord essayist who appears to have acted as 'guide, philosopher and friend' to a large number of nondescript geniuses, with which Massachusetts abounds. For some reason, which we hope he will explain in his promised volume, Mr. Thoreau deserted his manufactory to inhabit a small hut by the wooded shores of

Walden Pond, where he lived, as near as was attainable, after the manner of the primitive race--

--in the good old time

Of Adam and of Eve.

While thus remote from public haunts, Mr. Thoreau contracted an almost Californian familiarity with nature, and a singular disregard for the conventionalities of society, besides adding to the stock of his odd speculations. Most of his time, after supplying his simple necessities, was spent in traversing the woods, or boating, or reading in Greek or in some quaint old English author, being by no means contented, like Shakspeare's hermit, with what books he could find in the running brooks. One result of his rural leisure was his book entitled "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers"--a curious mixture of dull and prolix dissertation, with some of the most faithful and animated descriptions of external nature which have ever appeared. His next work, we presume, will give us his estimates of the advantages and disadvantages of solitude. As he has at last come to the conclusion of returning to the arrangements of social life, it may be intended as a sort of corrective to Zimmerman."

From Knickerbocker Magazine for August 1849: "We propose, by-and-by, to follow Mr. Henry D. Thoreau, down the Merrimack, even from Squam, Newfound Lake, Winnepisogee, White-Mountains, Smith's-and-Baker's, Mad Rivers, Nashua, Souhegan, Pitcataquoag, Suncook, Soncook, and Contoocook; but we have n't leisure for the jaunt just now. Meantime, let us commend 'A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers,' for which we are indebted to the publishers, Messrs. James Monroe and Company, to the attention of our readers."

And finally, from a review of Elizabeth Peabody's Aesthetic Papers in the New York Literary World for September 29, 1849):

"There is . . . an article on 'Resistance to Civil Government,' whose author would make it every man's duty to refuse allegiance to the state, whenever any of its laws violate his conscience. He has carried out his theory in his own case, and been shut up in prison for refusing to pay his 'poll-tax.' He appeals to the New Testament, even; by which he means, of course, that part of it which may be made to coincide with his own opinions, and not those ugly precepts about the paying of tribute, and submission to the powers that be. This article is about as fit in a volume of 'Aesthetic Papers' as would be 'the voyage of Gulliver.'"

Maybe with notices such as these, Thoreau might have preferred not being noticed.--Walter Harding

NOTES AND QUERIES

We grieve to announce the death on Jan. 27 of Frederick C. Klinck of Concord, a former president of the Thoreau Lyceum.

According to the NEW YORK POST for Feb. 28, 1984 the Rinhart Gallery of New York City is offering \$10,000 for the Dunshee ambrotype of Thoreau that was stolen from the Concord Antiquarian Society sixty-one years ago.

Collectors' Corner: The Current Co. of Bristol, R.I. is offering a copy of Sanborn's PERSONALITY OF THOREAU with Thoreau's letter of Aug. 11, 1854 to James Fields laid in, for \$3750. Jane Zwisohn Books, 524 Solano Dr. N.E., Albuquerque, N.M. 87108, is offering H.M. Tomlinson's copy of the first edition of A WEEK for \$1700.

The Morgan Library of New York City is now offering for sale beautiful little note-cards with Thoreau's comments on hoar frost from the JOURNAL.

Hallmark Cards is now selling a birthday card which reads, "Knock-Knock. Who's there? Thoreau! Thoreau who? Thoreau away your troubles and have a happy birthday."

According to the WASHINGTON POST for Aug. 31, 1983, Greg Dority, an ABC News security guard at the Washington bureau, talked a disturbed young man into surrendering his gun. Dority was able to get on the same wavelength with the suspect and finally convinced him that "Henry Thoreau wouldn't approve of what you're doing, whereupon the young man turned over his .45 automatic and surrendered to the police.

The caption on an Ed Fisher cartoon in the April 19, 1982 NEW YORKER reads "From Day One of my career, I've always been perceived as marching to a different drummer. But the truth is I've never marched to any drummer at all." And in another Ed Fisher cartoon in the August 22, 1983 NEW YORKER, the caption reads, "Our group used to go up to Walden to pay homage to Thoreau every year at this time, but now we just gather at Tavern-on-the-Green."

A "bc" cartoon by Hart in the ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS for April 30, 1983 features a fishlure that fails to lure fish because "They must march to a different ultrasonic beat."

Hallmark has issued a Schulz "Peanuts" poster with Snoopy, the dog, saying "I run to the beat of a different drummer."

Art 101 of Atlanta, Ga. has issued a Thoreau poster saying, "How vain it is to sit down to write when you have not stood up to live."

William Safire, in his regular language column in the NEW YORK TIMES for Feb. 5, 1984 points out Thoreau's use in WALDEN (p. 248 Modern Library edition) of the seemingly 20th century phrase "diet-drink."

We understand from the publishers that the Diogenes German translation of "Civil Disobedience" has sold 24,653 copies from 1973 to 1982 and their translation of WALDEN has sold 41,295 copies from 1971 to 1982.

Houses on Thoreau Avenue in a new housing development in Bakersfield, Cal., cost ninety thousand dollars and up.

According to John LeCaire's novel THE LITTLE DRUMMER GIRL (New York: Knopf, 1983), "When it came to militancy, Thoreau was an irrelevant

idealist with little practical understanding of activism--in short, a bum."

Andrew Nemethy in an article in Dec. 7, 1983 Barre, Vermont TIMES-ARGUS calls Thoreau "a grinch-like fellow who didn't like hustle and bustle and left it all behind for simple living."

A Feb. 17, 1984 story in USA TODAY called people who refuse to pay taxes to fund the military "Thoreaubacks to the 1960s."

Although much has been made of the mutual dislike of Thoreau and James Russell Lowell, Lowell, in a letter to his daughter of 5 Sept. 1869, reveals that Thoreau had taken him rowing on the Concord rivers in 1838 when Lowell had been "rusticated" to Concord from Harvard.

"Last May on my visit to New York . . . I went with Willard Trask for my first visit to the Pierpont Morgan Library. Willard is a translator and author with a passion for the box that Thoreau made to house his journals. He'd intended to see it for the last thirty years. They never show it. He never bothered to push it. Thoreau had built it to house his notebooks; now the library houses the box. . . We were admitted but the librarian was suspicious of our request. She kept asking if we didn't mean the journals themselves. No, we insisted on the box. Still skeptical, she allowed us to be taken into the vault to see the box. It's a simple three-foot oblong pine box with brass fittings. The interesting aspect is that Thoreau built it so a side opens, making the box a portable shelf. The journals' spines face out. Its used and battered appearance glowed in its pristine surroundings. To hear it calling to be touched, used again, handled, moved, made me sad."--Robert Perkins, AGAINST STRAIGHT LINES. Boston: Little Brown, 1983, pp. 73-74.

Although the Walden Pond State Reservation announced this spring that they would be making extensive renovations and repairs at Walden Pond this summer, including demolishing the concrete bathhouses, installing a new drainage system, repairing erosion, and planting trees, it was decided in mid-July to postpone such work until further study had been made. (See the CONCORD JOURNAL for March 8, July 12 and 26, 1984.

Incidentally, Walden Pond is higher now than it has been in most people's memories. The wharf at the bathing beach and long sections of the Indian path are completely under water and it is easy to canoe directly from Thoreau's Cove into Tommy Wyman's meadow which is now a good-sized pond in itself.

The Commissioner of Track and Field Events at the Los Angeles Olympics this summer is none other than Henry David Thoreau Jr., Henry's distant Los Angeles cousin.

Sir Sydney Smith, in his MOSTLY MURDER (New York: McKay, 1959, p. 25), says of one of his characters: "It is alleged that on his death-bed a well-intentioned visitor asked him if he had made his peace with God. 'No,' said Jimmy, 'As

far as I know, I had no quarrel with Him."

Can anyone help Edward Johnson identify the following quotation, supposedly by Thoreau, which he found on a Canadian greeting card? "If I can put one touch of a rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God."

Further Collector's Corner: John R. Sanderson, West Main Street, Stockbridge, Mass. 01262, offers for sale four volumes of Thoreau from the library of Thomas Wentworth Higginson. . . . Robert Lucas, P.O.Box 63, Blandford, Mass. 01008, offers among other things in his Cat. #23: Thoreau and Fellow Transcendentalists: Sophia Foord's copy of Emerson's SOCIETY AND SOLITUDE (\$150); a copy of DANIEL RICKETSON AND HIS FRIENDS with the manuscripts of Ricketson's letter to Thoreau of March 29, 1857; Sophia Thoreau's letter of March, 1865; and Ricketson's "Walden" and "In Memorium to H.D.T. laid in (\$800); Thoreau's letter of April 6, 1840 to David Haskins (\$3,000); Caroline Dall's copy of Thoreau's SUMMER (\$150); George Bradford's copy of Thoreau's WINTER (\$100); and a set of the Manuscript Edition with a one-page manuscript by Thoreau on cattle bound in.

In a syndicated cartoon, "Stockworth" by Sterling and Selesmick (Jan. 10, 1984), when a psychiatrist tells his patient, "Thoreau said, 'Much have I traveled in Concord,'" the patient replies, "Some people are satisfied with day trips."

THE NEW PAPERBACK EDITION OF THOREAU'S JOURNALS . . .

Enclosed with the spring bulletin was an offer from Peregrine-Smith Books (P.O.Box 667, Layton, Utah 84041) to order their forthcoming fourteen-volume paperback edition of the 1906 edition of Thoreau's Journal at \$99, rather than at the post publication price of \$145. Unfortunately due to a delay in mailing, many members did not receive the offer until after its announced deadline. As a result Peregrine-Smith has extended the deadline and you may still obtain the option to buy the set at the lower price if you will write them immediately upon receipt of this bulletin. This is a reservation only. You need send no money now and there is no obligation to purchase when the set becomes available.

ABEL MOORE AND THOREAU'S FATHER . . .

We are indebted to Marcia Moss, curator of collections at the Concord Free Public Library for calling our attention to the following bill recently found among the Abel Moore papers in the library and to the Trustees of the library for permission to reproduce it. Notice that the first item is a pair of shoes for Henry's ne'er-do-well Uncle Charlie Dunbar.

John Thoreau Esq to Abel Moore Dr		
1825 Feb. 26	To a pr. of shoes del'd. to Charles Dunbar	2.00
" Sept. 22	" " " Boots	0.50
" Nov. 11	" " " " Small Shoes	84
" " 17	" " " " " a pr. of shoes	1.12
" Dec. 5	" " " " " boots	.50
1826 Jan. 5	" " 1 pr. boots and shoes	.75
" Feb. 2	" " " " "	.50
" Sept. 11	" " " " " a pr. of boots	3.50
1829 Jan. 10	" 1 pr. of calfshin boots to be paid, be in paper work	6.50
1830 Oct. 12	" 70 ft. of clear spruce joint a 2¢	1.40
		15.91
Sept. 22. 1825	Ac. by a calfshin \$1.50	1.50
		\$17.41
1833 April	To 4 pencil boxes	1.00
See Ledger p. 135 & 59		